

him authoritie to mak convocation of my leigis ? Is nocht that tressoun ? "

"No, Madam," interposed the Lord Ruthven, "for he maks convocation of the pepill to heir prayer and sermoun almost daylie, arid whatever your Grace or utheris will think thereof, we think it no tressoun."

" Hald your peace," said the queen, " and let him mak answer for himself."

" I began, Madam," continued Knox, " to ressoun with the Secretour, quhome I tak to be ane far better dialectician then your Grace is, that all convocationis ar nocht unlauchfull; and now my Lord Ruthven hes gevin the instance, quhilk gif your Grace will deny, I sail address me for the prufe."

" I will say nathing," said the queen, " aganis your re-ligioun, nor aganis your convenyng to your sermonis. But quhat authoritie haif ye to convocat my subjectis quhen ye will, without my commandiment?"

" At my will," was the answer, " I nevir convenit four personis in Scotland; but at the ordour that the bretherin hes appoyntit, I haif gevin diverse adverteismentis, and grit multitudis haif assemblit thairupone. . . . And thairfoir, Madam, I maun be convyckit be ane just law that I haif done aganis the deutie of Godis rnessinger in writting of this letter, befoir that either I be sorie, or yit repent for the doing of it . . . I haif done na wrang."

" Ye sail not eschaip so," said the queen. " Is it .nocht tressoun, my lordis, to accuse ane prince of creweltie ? I think thair be Actis of Parliament aganis sick whisperaris."

" But whairintill," queried Knox, " can I be accusit ? "

" Read this pairte of your awin bill," said the queen, " quhilk began, ^e Thir feirfull summondis is direct aganis thame (to wit, the bretherin foirsaid) to make, no dout, preparatioun upoun the few, that ane dore may be opened till execute creweltie upoun ane grytter multitude/ Lo," continued she, ⁱ quhat say ye to that ? "

"Is it lauchfull for me, Madam?" returned Knox, "to answer for my self? or sail I be dampned befoir I be hard?"

" Say what ye can, for I think ye have eneuch ado."

" I will first then," replied Knox, " desyre this of your Grace, Madam, and of this maist honorabill audaince, quhidder